Securing Our Future (SOF) Grant

FAQ's

Listed below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions regarding the SOF grant program. For any question not addressed please contact the SOF Grant Administrator Katie Francis kfrancis@osbe.idaho.gov or your regional analyst.

- What schools are eligible for SOF funding?

  - Any publicly funded Idaho school or district with student occupied building.

- Are public charter schools eligible to apply?

  - Yes

- Are online-only schools eligible to apply?

  - No, online-only schools will not qualify for this grant.

- If a school leases it's building, may it apply?

  - Yes, but projects should be developed with an emphasis on protecting students, not increasing the value of the property for the building-owner.

- Are schools opening in the fall of 2023 eligible to apply?

  - No, only schools open at the time of the appropriation (Spring 2023) will be eligible to apply.

- My school has multiple buildings, will each building be funded for security improvements?

  - No, a single allotment of funding will be provided to each school as listed here.

- What is the amount of funding my school will receive?

  - The Phase 1 funding will be $20,000.00 per school.

- Must all the funding allocated to a school be expended at that school?

  - No, school districts will have the discretion to aggregate awards to address facilities with significant needs if the needs are within the allowable expenditures.

- My school has more than 20,000 dollars' worth of vulnerabilities in the allowable expenditures categories.

- o Districts may aggregate unused funds from other schools to address major vulnerabilities if the spending fits the allowable expenditures. Districts may also apply for Phase 2 competitive funding to address high-cost/high-value projects.

- Can this funding be used to reimburse for allowable security expenditures already made?

  - o No, the intent of the SOF grant program is to supplement, and not supplant, a school's safety and security spending.

- Will this be an ongoing funding stream?

  - o No, the Governor's request as approved by the legislature was for a one-time allocation.

- Can SOF funding be used for school resource officer or security guard salaries?

  - o No, SOF expenditures are limited to physical security improvements within the approved categories listed in the application. One-time appropriations are not a good solution to ongoing funding needs

- Can SOF funding be used for acoustic gunshot detection systems?

  - o No, acoustic gunshot detection systems are not demonstrated effective and are therefore not eligible for funding under the SOF grant.

- Can SOF funding be used for A.I.-based weapons detection systems?

  - o No, A.I.-based weapons detection systems are not demonstrated effective and are therefore not eligible for funding under the SOF grant.

- Can SOF funding be used for vaping detection systems?

  - o No, vaping detection systems are not eligible for funding under the SOF grant.

- What are the reporting requirements?

  - o There will be an initial application, periodic progress reporting and a projection completion report.

- Where can I find information about what the eligible expenses are?

  - o Allowable Expenditures Document